

Historic Preservation in Michigan



The rehabilitation of the Fort Shelby Hotel, Detroit



Leo D. Phillips, Richard Curto, Eugene M. Curtis, Emmett S. Moten, Doreen Hermelin, Quinn Evans Architects, Hobbs and Black Associates, Inc., and L. S. Brinker

When it opened in 1917, the 450-room Fort Shelby Hotel boasted a location near Union Station and passenger steamer docks, modern amenities, and elegant accommodations. After closing and reopening several times, the hotel closed its doors in the 1970s for what many people suspected was the last time.

The building moldered for nearly thirty years until it was purchased by a group of investors. Using Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits, the new owners rehabilitated the building as a hotel and luxury rental apartments.

The project represents \$83 million in direct investment and the creation of more than 2,000 jobs. For years the hotel was a gathering place for members of the press. The Fort Shelby has resumed that role once again.

